

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. - 7. (Cancelled).

cl 8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the treatment of a patient who is suffering a stroke, said apparatus comprising:

means for identifying patient characteristics indicative of the an incident of stroke in its an acute phase, said acute phase being defined as the first three hours from onset of the stroke; and

means for applying continuous positive airway pressure to said patient at least during said acute phase of said stroke in order to improve the patient's blood oxygen level.

9. (NEW) An apparatus for the treatment of a patient who is suffering a stroke, said apparatus comprising:

means for delivering continuous positive airway pressure to the patient at least during an acute phase of an incident of stroke in order to improve the patient's blood oxygen level; and

instruction means associated with the means for delivering containing instructions describing using said means for delivering during an acute phase of an incident of stroke in a patient.

10. (NEW) A method for the treatment of a patient who is suffering from an incident of stroke comprising the steps of:

providing a device for the delivery of positive pressure airway treatment at a pressure which exceeds atmospheric pressure, the device comprising (a) an airflow generator; (b) an interface adapted to fit a patient; and (c) a conduit for the flow of air from said generator to said interface; and

delivering treatment with said device to said patient during an acute phase of an incident of stroke in said patient to improve the patient's blood oxygen level, the acute phase being defined as the first three hours from onset of the incident of stroke.

11. (NEW) The method of claim 10 wherein the airflow generator is configured and arranged to deliver a bi-level positive pressure airway treatment.